Disney's
THE LITTLE MERMAID
UNDER THE SEA
NIGHT-LIGHT AND STORYBOOK

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The Little Mermaid

Under the Sea

Night-light and Storybook

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Once upon a time, in the peaceful underwater kingdom of Atlantica, there lived a mermaid princess named Ariel. Unlike the other mermaids and mermen, however, Ariel did not spend all her time singing and amusing herself on the ocean floor. To her, the surface was far more exciting.

Every day, with her friends Flounder the fish and Scuttle the seagull, Ariel would try to learn as much about the surface world as she could. And every night, she would dream of life among the humans who lived there.

This, of course, made her father, King Triton, furious. Long ago, he had made a rule that no merperson, *ever!* was to go above the water. The fish eaters who lived there were much too dangerous, he believed. And so, when Ariel was late to her debut concert because she was visiting the surface, the king declared that enough was enough!

"Sebastian," King Triton told his loyal court composer, "Ariel needs someone to keep her out of trouble—and you are just the crab to do it! See that she *never* goes to the surface again!"

Of course, keeping a constant eye on Ariel was the last thing Sebastian wanted to do. But when King Triton gave an order, a sea creature obeyed.

Sebastian dutifully followed Ariel and Flounder out of the palace, through a narrow gap in the side of a rocky seawall . . . and into an underwater grotto that was like nothing he had ever seen. Every ledge of the cave was filled with the treasures Ariel had collected: clocks, lanterns, forks, boots, music boxes . . . anything that she could find from the world above.

"What I wouldn't give to see what the human world is really like!" Sebastian heard Ariel say with a sigh.

Sebastian knew how angry the king would be if he ever found Ariel's grotto, but before the crab could say or do a thing, a shadow passed overhead.

Curious, Ariel quickly swam toward the top of the cave. Was it a ship? she wondered. Indeed, it was! And not only that, it was a ship full of humans—including one so handsome that he took her breath away. His name, she heard, was Prince Eric.

Ariel could have stared at the prince all night . . . and probably would have if a violent storm hadn't swept up out of the blue. Suddenly, lightning was flashing, the wind was howling, and huge waves were crashing down from every side. Within minutes, the ship was ablaze, the crew was in lifeboats . . . and Eric was nowhere to be seen.

Desperately, Ariel dived below the surface and searched until she found the prince. Then, using every ounce of strength she had, she pulled and tugged until he was safely on the shore.

Ariel knew she should leave Prince Eric on the sand and return to the water—but she couldn't. Instead, she felt the love inside her build into a song, and she sang to the prince until his eyes fluttered open. But before he was fully awake, the sound of other humans approaching made her stop, and she slipped sadly back into the sea.

Was it all a dream, the prince wondered when his servant finally found him . . . or had he really been rescued by a girl with the most beautiful voice he had ever heard?

As for Ariel, her heart ached as she watched Prince Eric go, and she wondered if she would ever see his handsome face again. She made a vow to herself right then that some way, someday, she would be part of his wonderful world. . . .

But how?

To Ariel's surprise, the answer came quite soon, when Ursula the sea witch found her and made her an offer. She would turn Ariel into a human—in exchange for her voice. But if the prince did not fall in love with Ariel and kiss her by sunset on the third day, the spell would be broken, and the little mermaid would become Ursula's slave forever.

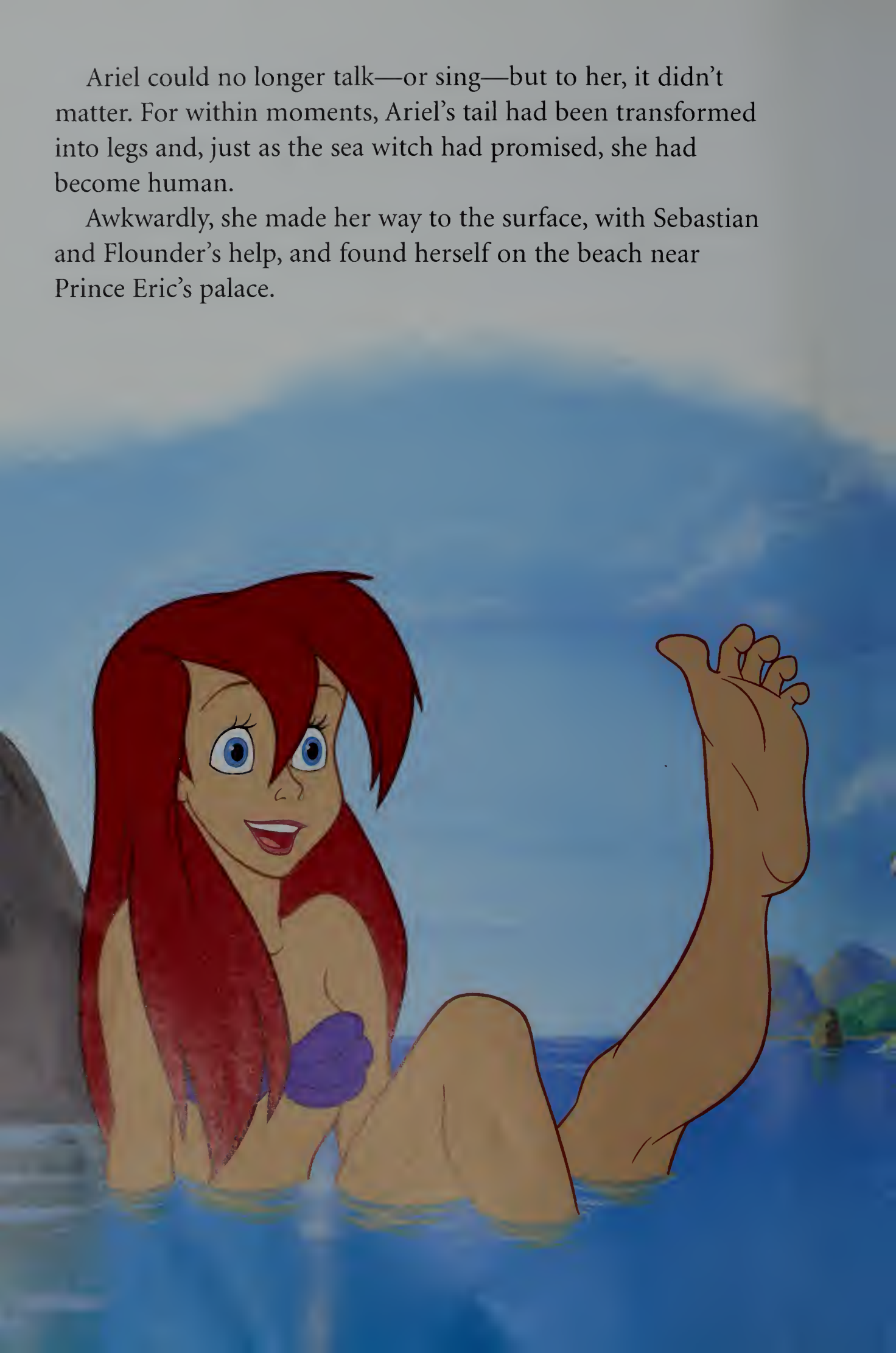
It took Ariel but a moment to say "yes." To be by Eric's side, there was nothing she wouldn't do. She didn't realize, however, that she was playing right into Ursula's evil hands.

"Now sing!" Ursula commanded.

Ariel obeyed, and the next thing she knew, her voice was flowing out of her throat and into a golden shell dangling from the sea witch's neck.

Ariel could no longer talk—or sing—but to her, it didn't matter. For within moments, Ariel's tail had been transformed into legs and, just as the sea witch had promised, she had become human.

Awkwardly, she made her way to the surface, with Sebastian and Flounder's help, and found herself on the beach near Prince Eric's palace.



Meanwhile, ever since his ship had been wrecked, Eric had been thinking about the mysterious girl with the beautiful voice. She had to be real, he told himself.

One day, the prince walked the beach hoping to find the girl who had rescued him. Imagine his delight when he came across Ariel. Surely, she was the one!

Or was she? His heroine had sung so sweetly, but this girl could not make a sound. . . .

Still, it was clear that Ariel needed some place to stay, and Prince Eric generously brought her home to his castle. There, she was given real human clothes and invited to dine with Eric as his guest of honor. (At dinner, no one could imagine where such a lovely girl had gotten such peculiar manners—and yet no one doubted for a moment that she was every bit as human as any one of them.)

That night, Ariel learned what it was like to sleep as a human on dry land . . . on a mattress of soft feathers, nestled in smooth satin sheets. Still, as happy and as cozy as she was, sleep did not come right away. The day had been so wonderful, Ariel hated for it to end! Everything on the surface, from Prince Eric to the moonlight bathing her room in its soft glow, filled her, from her head to her ten new toes, with joy. Still, she tried once more to close her eyes and imagine what marvelous things the new day would bring.

To Ariel's delight, Prince Eric spent the entire next day showing her around his kingdom, and though she wouldn't have thought it possible, she fell more and more in love! But did he love her, too? By nightfall, as Eric rowed her across a romantic, moonlit lagoon, Ariel thought she had her answer. Her heart quickened as he held her hands and leaned in closer. She happily closed her eyes and waited for his kiss.

SPLASHHHHH!

The kiss never came. Instead, the rowboat had flipped over, and Ariel and Eric were up to their necks in the chilly lagoon.

Ariel didn't know it, but Ursula had sent her two eel assistants, Flotsam and Jetsam, to overturn the boat. The evil sea witch was fully prepared to do everything in her power to make sure there was no kiss. And she wasn't stopping there.

The next day, Ursula appeared at the palace—not as herself, but disguised as a beautiful girl named Vanessa, with Ariel's amazing voice.

Prince Eric couldn't help it. When he heard Vanessa sing, he was certain that *she* was the girl who had rescued him from the sea . . . and that she was the one he should marry.

To Ariel's dismay, the announcement was made right away: Prince Eric and Vanessa would be married that very day; their wedding ship would depart at sunset.

Ariel could feel her poor heart breaking. It hardly even mattered that this meant becoming Ursula's slave forever. Without her true love, what good was freedom, anyway?

Luckily, Ariel's friend, Scuttle, discovered Ursula's plot just in time! He raced after the wedding ship and before the vows could be completed, he grabbed the shell from the sea witch's neck and returned Ariel's voice to its rightful owner.

As soon as Ariel began to sing, Eric realized his mistake, and a new wedding was planned.

As the happy couple's wedding ship sailed off, Ariel knew there was no place on earth—or in the ocean—that she would rather be.

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Ariel, the mermaid princess, dreams of visiting the human world and dancing with the handsome prince, Eric. Finally, she gets her chance—but the evil sea witch, Ursula, has stolen Ariel's voice. Can Ariel get her voice back and win Prince Eric's love before the sun goes down, or will she become the sea witch's slave forever? The beloved tale of *The Little Mermaid* unfolds in this enchanting storybook. Plus, there's a keepsake night-light sure to bring dreams fit for a princess.

WARNING:
CHOKING HAZARD - Small parts.
Not for children under 3 years.

AVERTISSEMENT:
RISQUE DE SUFFOCATION - Petites pièces.
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